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Claims

1. A carton of the type comprising an open top container and a separate top closure, the upper periphery of the open top container is reinforced by reinforcing panels hingedly connected to the open top container along an upper edge of the open top container, wherein the top closure is releasable from the open top container.
2. A carton according to claim 1 wherein each of the reinforcing panels is hingedly connected to at least one adjacent reinforcing panel.
3. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the top closure is at an elevation below the upper edge of the open top container when the carton is in use.
4. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the top closure is at an elevation substantially equal to that of a lower extremity of the reinforcing panels when the carton is in use.
5. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the open top container comprises at least one reinforced handle aperture struck from at least one of the reinforcing panels, and wherein the handle apertures are located at an elevation above the top closure.
6. A carton according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the top closure comprises apertures for receiving articles or portions thereof, and wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.
7. A carton according to any one of the preceding claim wherein upon removal of the articles, the carton retains sufficient structural integrity such that the carton can be re-used for returning empty articles.

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8. A carton according to claim 1 wherein the upper periphery of the reinforcing panels are hingedly connected to the open top container entirely along the upper edge of the open top container.
- 5 9. A carton according to claim 8 wherein at least one of the reinforcing panels is hingedly connected at opposed side edges thereof to adjacent reinforcing panels.
10. A carton according to claim 5 wherein the top closure comprises at least one end flap hingedly connected thereto, the at least one end flap is folded downward to lie in the plane of the at least one reinforcing panel to avoid covering the handle aperture.
11. A two part blank comprising a first part for forming an open top container and a second part for forming a top closure, the first part comprises reinforcing panels hingedly connected to an upper edge of the open top container to reinforce the upper periphery of the open top container in a carton in a setup condition, wherein the top closure is releasable from the open top container.
12. A blank according to claim 11 wherein the top panel comprises apertures for receiving articles or portions thereof, wherein each aperture has a frangible connection with at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles.
- 20 13. A blank according to claim 11 or 12 wherein the first part comprises at least one reinforced handle aperture struck from at least one of the reinforcing panels.
- 25 14. A blank to form a carton according to any one of claims 1 to 10.